

July, 2000, is under examination of the Court of Inquiry set up under Rule 75 of Aircraft Rules, 1937, to hold formal investigation into the circumstances of the accident.

Security lapses at Airports

3119. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that security persons are not alert during their duty hours on the Airports.

(b) whether it is also a fact that their equipment are not working properly; and

(c) what happened on the day of trial at Chennai Airport before the arrival of PM?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Security persons remain alert during their duty hours. Immediate action is taken in case of any lapse.

(b) Equipment are regularly checked and maintained by technical wing of Airports Authority of India.

(c) Dummy checks were carried out by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) officers on 3.7.2000. Inadequacies observed in the security arrangements at Chennai airport were brought to the notice of Tamil Nadu police authorities and the arrangements were suitably tightened.

“Namaskar India” Contract to Business India Group

3120. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contract for publishing of “Namaskar India” has been given to “Business India Group” by the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the fact at the time of awarding the contract that the allegations under the different sections

[22 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

of income tax and violation of FERA are pending against the managers of Business India Television international limited company of this Group?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Air India has however, awarded a contract to M/s. Business India Group for publication of its inflight magazine "Namaskar".

(b) While Air India was aware of the Financial problems being faced by the Business India Group of Publications, the company was not aware of this publishing house having violated various sections of income tax and foreign exchange act at the time of finalising the contract in mid 1999. To ensure that Air India's interests were safeguarded, a revolving advance of US\$ 30,100 was obtained from them.

Development of Civil Aviation in Ninth Plan

3121. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and programmes for the development of civil aviation plan to be implemented in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of funds granted and utilised under the scheme during the last three years and till date, plan-wise; and

(c) the details of development works to be undertaken with this fund in the country during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Scheme-wise details of the Ninth Plan Outlay; Outlays approved for the Annual Plans 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 in respect of various organisations in the Civil Aviation Sector; and expenditure incurred/anticipated there against are given in Annexure. [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 40].